As a result, the number of BPL familes eligible for subsidized food grains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crores families.

(3) Under P.D.S., the Antyodaya AnnaYojana Scheme is also running in all States/UTs in which each of the Antyodaya family (Poorest of the poor BPL families) is given of foodgrains @ Rs. 2.00 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3.00 per kg. for rice. The foodgrains given under this scheme has been increased from 25 kgs. to 35 kgs. per family/per month *w.e.f.* April, 2001.

(4) Free of cost foodgrains is allocated to drought flood and national calamities affected States under Food For Work (FFW). From January, 2001 to 7.3.2002,39.33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under FFW have been allotted to 11 States.

(5) 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are being supplied every year free of cost of States/UTs under the Sampoorna Gramin RozgarYojana (SGRY).

(6) A decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the Work Food Programme.

Subsidy for Handling Foodgrains

2378. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy being provided by Government for handling of foodgrains;

(b) the reasons for payment of food subsidy;

(c) whether the subsidy is being paid to the farmers; and

(d) if so how the farmers are benefited by the payment of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a)The amount of subsidy provided by Government of India to the FCI and to the State Governments for distribution of foodgrains under decentralized procurement scheme during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	FCI	State Govt.	Total
1999-2000	8856.72	343.28	9200.00
2000-2001	11462.00	548.00	12010.00
2001-2002	16724.00	770.00	17494.00

(b) Food subsidy is paid for covering the gap between the economic cost of foodgrains and the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of the foodgrains distributed. FCI is also reimbursed the cost of carrying buffer stocks.

(c) and (d) Farmers are paid the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for the grains procured from them. Procurement operation by Government agencies ensure that there is no distress sale of foodgrains by the farmers.

Prices of Edible Oils

2379. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of all the edible oils have considerably risen, recenly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to lessen the burden on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a)The price-rise in wholesale prices of major edible oils during the last six months are mentioned below: